(B) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA):

The programme aims at the development of land resources making it more productive including improvement of culturable wasteland area through soil and water conservation programmes. The programme specially focuses on (i) conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources including various uses; (ii) enhancement of agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable manner; (iii) restoration of ecological balance in the degraded and fragile rainfed eco-systems by greening these areas through appropriate mix of trees, shrubs and grasses; and (iv) reduction in regional disparity between irrigated and rainfed areas, etc.

Procurement by private sectors

2744. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to allow private sectors' participation in the procurement, marketing and selling of farm produce in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States which have agreed to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has advised the State Governments by circulating a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act in 2003 to make amendments in their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to promote setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sector. The development of contract farming, direct marketing and alternative competitive market in private and cooperative sector would provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce in such market, which will ensure them better prices/services. Since agriculture marketing is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to amend the APMC Acts as suited to them.

The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Assam, Arunachai Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Chandigarh have made amendments on the major areas of reforms suggested in the Model Law and Haryana, Karnataka, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat made partial reforms. Government of Bihar has repealed the APMC Act. The States and UT of Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have no APMC Acts.

Use of chemical fertilizers

†2745. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acres of land throughout the country where chemical fertilizers are used at present;

(b) the quantity of fertilizers in kilogram used for per acre of land in India as compared to the international level; and

(c) the details of the percentage of such farmers who use fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per Input Survey 1996-97 about 107.17 million hectare area of the country is using chemical fertilizers.

(b)The average per hectare consumption of fertilizers (NPK nutrients) in the country during 2005-06 is 104.50 kg. compared to the 105.50 kg. average world consumption (NPK nutrients) per hectare of arable land.

(c) As per Input Survey 1996-97 about 70.7% of farmers are using chemical fertilizers.

Production of foodgrains

2746. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production expected of foodgrains such as wheat, rice, jawar, bajra, pulses, fruits and vegetables like onion, potatoes, during 2006-07

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.